DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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SEE FOR YOURSELVES

East German Invitation to British Labour

The British Labour Party should send a delegation to East Germany to see for themselves. This was the invitation sent to the Executive Committee of the Labour Party in London on July 15th by the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party.

The invitation pointed out the frightful dangers involved in rearming West Germany, and contrasted the militarist course being pursued in West Germany with the democratic policy of the German Democratic Republic.

"In the interests of the German people and of peace in Europe, the German Democratic Republic will continue to fight consistently against the remilitarisation of West Germany, and will also pursue a policy of achieving understanding amongst the Germans themselves" the invitation states.

"We are of the opinion that this is also the best way to protect the interests of the British people.

"The Socialist Unity Party of Germany proposes that the Labour Party send a delegation to visit the German Democratic Republic, so that representatives of the British Labour Party can have an opportunity to convince themselves on the spot of its peaceful intentions and democratic development."

(Full text of letter on page 115.)

"Achtung" Which Means "LOOK OUT"

"Newsweek" of New York looked at the new West German Wehrmacht on July 12th.

This is what it saw:

Army: 400,000 men. Twelve divisions — six infantry (13,000 men each), four armoured (12,700), two mechanised (also 12,700, including a tank regiment to strengthen this basically infantry outfit), plus supporting troops. To be led by 60 generals, 300 colonels, 20,000 other officers. One fifth of manpower to be professionals; the rest to be drafted for eighteen month terms. Timetable: Training and build-up to take two years.

Air Force: 80,000 men, 1400 aircraft. Twenty wings — ten wings of tactical fighter-bombers, five of fighters, five of transport, reconnaissance and liaison planes. No longrange strategic bombers.

Navy: 20,000 men. Confined to vessels of less than 1500 tons. For mine-sweeping and coastal defence. No U-boats.

Logistics: Stockpiling of American matériel for German use has been under way for some time. Much is stacked in mammoth supply depots in the Kaiserslautern triangle west of the Rhine. Total cost to Bonn of the two-year build-up period: between 8 and 11 billions.

(Turn page for full story)

"NEWSWEEK"

Looks At New West German Wehrmacht

(American newsmagazine "Newsweek" on July 12th devoted its cover and four inside pages to the question of West German re-armament. Here, in a somewhat condensed form, is the "Newsweek" article. Passages in brackets and italic type have been inserted by GERMAN REPORT.)

Whether Bonn chips in its share to the European Defence Community or creates a German national army, it will use the same blueprint:

In either case, the ready-made plans of the Amt Blank (Blank Bureau, the shadow defence ministry headed by Theodor Blank) call for putting 500,000 Germans into uniform.

Four-fifths of the German manpower will be used where the West needs them most — as ground troops. Preferably they will wear the EDC's common uniform, almost a duplicate of the American except for color . . .

Those cynics who thought the 'ohne mich' (without me) philosophy would prevail in the new Germany have been proven wrong by the correspondence files in Amt Blank's shabby red-brick building in Bonn. Although no recruiting is yet permissible, 140,000 men have already volunteered in writing. Beginning May 1, the Amt Blank began sending each volunteer a form asking full details about military experience and postwar life. Only a trickle of replies has yet come in, but a flood is expected as soon as Bonn is allowed to rearm.

Only half of these volunteers will be acceptable, politically or otherwise. Some 50,000 of them are ex-officers; less than half that number will be needed . . .

Starting out with such volunteers, a 100,000-man cadre will be trained, perhaps outside as well as inside West Germany's borders, during the first year of rearmament. After one year selective service will be used to build the outfits to full strength with eighteen-month draftees . . .

All the usable members of two full draft classes will be needed to meet the present goals of German rearmament . . .

There is no room for one over-all German military commander in the EDC plan. Most of the wartime marshals who might covet such a job, anyway, are dead, like Rommel, Rundstedt, and Brauchitsch, or convicted of war crimes, like Manstein.

Instead the new German generals are going to be little-known men. Most of them will be former colonels and majors, newly promoted to rarefied rank. A smattering will be second-drawer generals whose names were not blackened by the Nazi tar.

Such top-ranking officers will be picked by a special board of old military professionals, leavened with leading civilians to ensure political cleanliness.

(Officers' Selection Board consists of Major General Freiherr Smilo von Luettwitz, who under Hitler played leading part in destruction of Warsaw, and is sought by Poland as war criminal; Lieutenant General Kuntzen, former department chief in personnel section of nazi Wehrmacht; two other former Wehrmacht generals.)

These field commanders will be called upon to lead the twelve German divisions and, assuming a fair division of the higher commands among the EDC nations, three or four corps. Among the politically sound ex-generals who might be tempted to fill spots are tank experts Walter Wenck and Count Gerhard von Schwerin.

(Count Schwerin commanded the nazi 116th Tank Division on the eastern front.)

Some key staff spots also beckon under the EDC blueprint. Among them:

EDC Military Delegate: This post in effect is the training commander. The military delegate to Germany, like his opposite numbers in the other EDC countries, will be appointed by and subject to the orders of the EDC commissariat. Best bet: General Ludwig Cruewell, successor to Rommel as Afrika Korps commander. He spent most of the war as a British POW.

Representative on EDC Staff: Just what slot will be filled by the top-ranking German has not yet been decided. In any case the logical candidate is Gen. Adolf Heusinger, a veteran of the General Staff. A surviver of the July 20, 1944, plot to assassinate Hitler, he has worked on the planning of German rearmament since it began in 1950.

(General Heusinger was chief of operations branch of nazi Wehrmacht, and worked out the full plans for the attack on Holland, Belgium and France. In his new biography "Befehl im Widerstreit" Heusinger attacks Hitler for not wiping out British Army at Dunkirk.)

Liaison Officer with SHAPE: The post of ranking German liaison man between EDC and SHAPE appears earmarked for Gen. Hans Speidel, another veteran planner of German rearmament. Once Rommel's chief of staff, he was also a July 20 plotter.

(General Hans Speidel was general staff officer of Wehrmacht Army Group B on Ukrainian front, responsible for burning many hundreds of villages. His brother, General Wilhelm Speidel was nazi military governor in Greece, sentenced after war to 20 years imprisonment for murdering thousands of Greek civilians, released by Americans in February 1951.)

Military Chief in Bonn: The likeliest choice to head the military department of the defence ministry, in charge of the 180 to-be-uniformed men there, is Count Johann Adolf von Kielmannsegg, an ex-colonel of the General Staff . . .

Defence Minister: The chances are that the Amt Blank will still be accurately called by that name when it finally becomes a full-fledged defence ministry. Theodor Blank, 48, wears a bluff exterior that suits his background as a onetime carpenter who became a union boss. Kicked out of the unions by the Nazis, he . . . took two years of college work before he was called into the army. Blank won a battle-field commission, but never rose higher than first lieutenant.

(Genuine German trade union leaders did not rise to any rank at all in the nazi Wehrmacht. They were in concentration camps or dead. On January 1st 1954 Herr Blank,

Letter from a British Soldier

X. Barracks
British Zone
Germany

Dear Mr. Peet,

As a reader of GERMAN REPORT for the past year I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating you on the paper, on your fearless exposure of the lies of most of our national press, and for your truthful and factual reporting of life in the German Democratic Republic.

I am a national serviceman and have been in Germany for the past eighteen months. During that time I have found the REPORT indispensible in helping to combat the lies and warmongering propaganda that we national servicemen are subjected to against the German Democratic Republic, so that our minds will accept EDC and war.

The lectures given us by our officers and the British Resident in Y.... did not go without opposition from us working class lads; the officers were surprised where we got our facts about the German Democratic Republic. I am sure they would have got a real picture of life there if they became subscribers to GERMAN REPORT instead of relying on the War Office propaganda news sheets.

My employment unfortunately takes me into close contact with the GSO (German Service Organisation — uniformed Germans serving with British forces), and my stomach turns sick when I hear them describing their war exploits and the good times they had raping Europe. Why, last week one of these fascists described to me in detail "how good a man Hitler was for the workers, how he ate the same food etc., and all the workers had houses of their own and full employment".

When I raised the question with him whether the full employment was due to the arms race and the building of concentration camps, and that the nazis led to war, he tried to escape my questions by blaming the Jews for everything connected with the war.

When I cast my mind back a few years, I had four brothers in uniform helping to free Europe from these beasts, and the same fascists are back in uniform of the GSO working for my government, unashamedly praising Hitler and showing off their tattoo marks proving that they were in the SS. It is rather ironic that they all tell us they never fought in the West, always on the Eastern front. **British Soldier**

writing in the "Deutsche Soldatenzeitung" declared that members of the Waffen-SS would be "re-used" in the new West German Wehrmacht.)

...The old General Staff was shattered by Hitler and defeat, although the grand tradition lingers in some minds. The sole nucleus on which the Germans could build is called the Organization Gehlen. This represents only one phase of staff work — although perhaps the most important — intelligence. The Gehlen group is of considerable size and its headquarters are in the village of Pullach, some 10 miles south of Munich. An 8-foot barbed-wire fence surrounds a self-contained community of about 30 acres with its stores and schools. It is named after its chief, Brig. Gen. Reinhardt Gehlen.

Gehlen is now in his early 50s, slender, of medium height with sparse blond hair and a toothbrush mustache. He is very correct and military in bearing and inclined to be humorless in the tradition of the military monks of the General Staff. He switched from the artillery to the staff and during the war was head of Fremde Heere Ost, the intelligence section dealing with the Russian front in the German Army High Command.

He was captured by the Americans in 1945 and since then has used his immense knowledge of Eastern Europe to set up his organisation. Western experts consider the information produced by the Organization Gehlen as good as that from any source.

The organisation has expanded its activities beyond the East. It has agents and contacts in Western Europe, the Balkans, and the Middle and Far East. It receives valuable voluntary cooperation from German businessmen throughout the world... The Communist press in East Germany has charged that the Gehlen group is financed by the US for purposes of super-espionage.

...last March a tentative agreement was reached to put Gehlen under (Adenauer's) chancellery and the Finance Ministry agreed to pay the cost — between $4.5 million and $5.5 million per year.

"In Germany we are at last throwing our weight to the swift creation of a German Army, calling in some of the great German General Staff of World War II, and some of their toughest fighters to create a bulwark against the Communist threat".
New York Daily News, July 7th 1954

"Injustice" Say Ex-Nazis

By the Associated Press

"Fallingbostel, West Germany, July 26th — About 3,500 former Nazis, once interned in British camps in northern Germany, yesterday demanded 'compensation for injustice' they allegedly suffered.

"The claim was put forward by speakers of the 'Association for the Interests of Those Wronged by Denazification' which seeks 'public rehabilitation' of its members. The gathering here was attended by former inmates of the prison camps for Nazis at Sandbostel, Westertimke, Oerbke and Neuengamme . . .

"A clergyman, whose name was only given as Jakobshagen, said the former Nazi internees should 'set an example for the German youth who is longing for it. Soon our youth will again ask for great German men and women and for their prodigious achievements' the parson said."

New York Herald Tribune, July 27th 1954.

Blind TV

The experimental studio of the Bavarian Television service is situated in the headquarters building of the Bavarian Federation for the Blind.

"NEUTRALISE GERMANY"

— *Soviet Proposal*

All European states, together with the United States and an observer from China, should meet soon to discuss the creation of a European Security System, the Soviet Government proposed on July 25th in notes addressed to Britain, France and the United States. Such a security system would ensure the neutralisation of Germany, the notes stated.

Here are the passages of the note referring to Germany:

"Such a European system would create effective conditions of security in Europe. It would be an important step forward in this matter and would create more favourable conditions for the settlement of the German problem on the basis of establishing a united Germany as a peaceable, independent and democratic state.

"This would remove the serious obstacles on the road to uniting Germany, which have been created in recent years by the policy of remilitarising West Germany and planning its inclusion in the so-called European Defence Community.

"The creation of a general European system of collective security would thus, together with the withdrawal of the occupation troops from Germany and the agreed limitation of the strength of the German police, pending the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, insure the neutralisation of Germany, and prevent it from becoming a hotbed of war in the heart of Europe, to which the re-establishment of German militarism inevitably leads . . .

"The Soviet Government proposes . . . a conference be convened in the next few months of all the European states that would wish to take part in it, and also the USA. The Soviet Government considers it desirable that the People's Republic of China should send an observer to this conference."

POLICE TALKS PROPOSED

"British White Book Fairy Tales"

The Government of the German Democratic Republic is ready at any time to negotiate with West Germany an agreement on the strength, armament and stationing of their respective police forces, it was officially announced in East Berlin on July 16th.

The announcement was made following the publication on July 13th in London of a White Book containing alleged details of the strength and armament of East German police forces.

"This White Book is obviously a collection of forgeries", the East German statement said. "The lie is spread that the police forces in the German Democratic Republic are more than four times as strong as the forces in West Germany; it is also alleged that there is conscription in the German Democratic Republic.

"These untruths and slanders directed against the People's Police are designed solely to justify the policy of preparing for war in West Germany, and to mislead the British public.

"As is well known, the Government of the German Democratic Republic declared on December 16th 1953 its readiness to negotiate with West Germany on the strength, armament and stationing of the police forces in East and West Germany. Adenauer turned down this proposal. At the Berlin Conference the Soviet delegation made a similar proposal, but it was turned down by Dulles, assisted by Eden.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic has repeatedly declared it is ready to put this proposal into effect at any time. This would be the best method of showing that the British White Book is just a book of fairy tales".

* * *

The text of the Soviet proposal, put to the Big Four meeting in Berlin on February 17th 1954 in the form of a draft resolution was as follows:

"The Governments of France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics deem it desirable that an agreement be reached concerning German police in Eastern and Western Germany, including questions of the number and armament of all types of police."

Church Rally Brings East and West Together

Members of the East and West German Governments met face to face for the first time during the second week in July, when Protestant representatives of both bodies attended the great all-German Evangelical Church Rally held in Leipzig, East Germany.

West German visitors included Dr. Ehlers, Chairman of the West German Parliament, three Christian Democratic and three Social Democratic members of Parliament, and former West German Minister of the Interior Dr. Heinemann. East German political leaders present included Dr. Johannes Dieckmann, Chairman of the East German People's Chamber, and Deputy Prime Minister Otto Nuschke.

Both East and West German newspapers reported that the political leaders had had cordial unofficial talks with each other during the rally. A total of more than 30,000 West Germans travelled to Leipzig for the occasion.

New Soviet Ambassador

The Soviet Government has appointed G. M. Pushkin as new Ambassador of the USSR in the German Democratic Republic, and as High Commissioner in Germany. These posts were previously held by W. S. Semyonov, who has been appointed to another post.

Death For SS Saboteur

The Frankfurt/Oder court in East Germany has passed sentence of death on a former SS man who spent the war murdering Poles, and who last year committed large-scale sabotage on the state-owned farm where he worked.

The SS man, Wilhelm Wolff, had managed to conceal his war crimes and get appointed to the post of manager of one of the branches of the state farm. In this capacity he had led a gang which sabotaged production, spread swine fever, and caused damage totalling 3,700,000 marks.

After his arrest by the People's Police, it was discovered that he had worked as a concentration camp guard during the war, and had been responsible for many murders.

Other members of his sabotage gang, most of them former officers and SS men, were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from four years to fifteen years.

U. S. COURT SHIPS CRIMINALS EAST

United States courts in Germany now make a practice of "exporting" to East Germany not only trained spies and saboteurs, but also petty sneak thieves and peddlers of obscene postcards.

Proof of this curious "export" business is given in the letter reproduced on this page. The aim of the practice is to disturb in any way possible the peaceful and normal development of East Germany.

The letter shown here was found in the possession of a young burglar named Siegfried Sch. (German legal rules for the protection of young offenders prevent the publication of his full name, ed.)

A long period of unemployment in West Berlin, where he had always lived, and black-marketeering activities outside American barracks, had turned Siegfried into a petty crook with a sizable record of convictions. In Autumn 1953 he tried a new "profession" — peddling obscene photographs to U. S. soldiers.

When one of his customers refused to pay the sum asked, Siegfried got into a fight and was picked up by American Military Police. In American detention, in accordance with common practice, agents of the U. S. Counter Intelligence Corps offered Siegfried a well-paid job as a spy in East Germany. He turned it down, for he had seen too many of his acquaintances get stiff sentences from East German courts for espionage.

So he came to trial, was sentenced to eight months imprisonment for striking an American soldier and then, as the letter on this page testifies, he was immedately released and deported to East Germany.

He immediately turned to burglary again, and was arrested by People's Police on March 31st this year after he had broken into a camera shop and stolen 27 valuable cameras and 45 wrist watches.

P. S. The American "deportation" may turn out to be a very lucky thing for young Siegfried, for he will now be sent to an East German youth detention centre where he will be able to learn a trade for the first time in his life, and where every effort will be made to turn him into a useful member of society.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR GERMANY
UNITED STATES COURTS FOR GERMANY

GESCHAEFTSSTELLE

Berlin-Lichterfelde-West,
Ring Strasse 9,
16. Dezember 1953.

BESCHEINIGUNG

Hiermit wird [redacted] bescheinigt, dass er heute von dem Amerikanischen Gericht, Bezirk II, in Berlin-Lichterfelde-West, Ringstr. 9, zu 8 Monaten Gefaengnis verurteilt worden. (Fall-Nr. 53-A2-496).

Auf die Strafe wurde die Untersuchungshaft angerechnet, und fuer den Rest der Strafe wird Bewaehrungsfrist ab heute bewilligt.

Die Bedingung der Bewaehrungsfrist lautet: Entlassung nach dem Ostsektor oder der Ostzone bis 8 Uhr abends des heutigen Tages.

LESTER A. KOLSTE
Clerk Marshal

(Translation)

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR GERMANY
UNITED STATES COURTS FOR GERMANY
DISTRICT II

Business Office

Berlin-Lichterfelde-West
Ring-Strasse 9
December 16th 1953

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Herr Siegfried Sch . . . was today sentenced to 8 months imprisonment by the American Court, District II in Berlin-Lichterfelde-West, Ring-Strasse 9 (Case-No. 53-A 2-496).

The period spent under arrest during investigation will be taken into consideration, and the prisoner will be placed on probation from today for the remainder of the sentence.

The condition of probation is: release in the East Sector (of Berlin, ed.) or the East Zone by 8 p. m. today.

(signed) **Lester A. Kolste**
Clerk Marshal

WIN A NEW READER

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

LONG SENTENCES FOR PEACE CAMPAIGNERS

West German Court Stages New "Reichstag Trial"

The West German Central Political Court at Karlsruhe has passed long prison sentences on three men who helped organise a plebiscite against remilitarisation in West Germany.

Oskar Neumann and Karl Dickel were sentenced to three years imprisonment, and Emil Bechtle was sentenced to eight months imprisonment. (Short biographies of the accused are given in box on this page)

"Neumann, Dickel and Bechtle, who were out on bail during the trial, did not appear in court for sentence. In a letter which they sent to the President they declared that they were absenting themselves in order to demonstrate to the world the illegal and unconstitutional nature of the court."

The three men had played a leading part in the organisation of the unofficial plebiscite held in West Germany in 1951 and 1952 on the question "Are you opposed to the remilitarisation of Germany and in favour of a peace treaty?" Despite all bans and terror measures, more than 6 million West Germans took part in the plebiscite, and over 96% declared against a new Wehrmacht.

The 400-page indctment in the Karlsruhe trial charged that this plebiscite was in fact high treason, since its purpose, it was alleged, was to overthrow the constitutional order in West Germany.

Journalists from all parts of Europe who attended the trial described it as the "Reichstag Fire Trial of 1954", drawing a comparison with the infamous trial in which the nazis in 1933 tried to frame Bulgarian Communists Dimitroff, Popoff and Taneff on charges of having fired the Reichstag.

As in the Reichstag Trial, the prosecution witnesses in the Karlsruhe trial were an astonishing selection of drug-takers and police agents, and the accused became the accusers. Time and again Oskar Neumann, conducting his own defence, forced the witnesses to admit in the course of cross-examination that they had been lying.

One of the high-points of the trial came on July 6th when one of the prosecution witnesses, Hans Geerkens of Dusseldorf was challenged on his past by Oskar Neumann, who asked him whether it was true that he had been an SS man and one of the accused in the Malmedy War Crimes trial,

Geerkens rose from his seat and shouted: "Yes, that's true. And I am particularly proud of the fact!"

The Men in the Dock

Oskar Neumann. *37 year old engineer from Munich, son of a railway official. As a student during the war, Neumann took part in the resistance movement against Hitler, was seized by the Gestapo and sent to concentration camp. Here he met Communists for the first time, and immediately after his release at the end of the war he joined the Communist Party. He was elected to Munich City Council, and played a prominent part in reconstruction in the first post-war years. Held without trial for fourteen months by the West German police while the present case was being prepared.*

Karl Dickel. *46 year old building worker from Wuppertal, active trade unionist since the age of sixteen, joined the Communist Party in 1926 Served a long term of imprisonment under the nazis for "high treason". Held without trial by the West German authorities for 15 months.*

Emil Bechtle. *46 year old son of a poor farmer, himself an office worker. Joined the Communist Party in 1926. Active in the resistance movement against the nazis. Three of his brothers were sent to concentration camp, one was murdered by the Gestapo.*

FREE GERMAN YOUTH BANNED IN WEST GERMANY

The Free German Youth organisation was finally declared illegal in West Germany on July 16th in a decision of the Federal Administrative Court delivered in Karlsruhe.

The Free German Youth, which was founded in London during the war by German anti-fascist refugees, has led the fight in both East and West Germany for peace and reunification, and against militarism.

During 1951 the West German Government issued a decree banning the organisation, but many West German courts had ruled that this decree was not binding in law.

The final ban pronounced on July 16th laid down that the Free German Youth was an organisation aimed against constitutional order, and therefore illegal. The judgement stated:

"The question as to whether the Free German Youth have used legal or illegal methods is immaterial. The decisive point is that its aims are the changing of the constitutional free-democratic basic order in the Federal Republic."

As a result of this decision, prosecuting attorneys in West Germany may now take proceedings under Paragraph 129 A of the Criminal Code not only against members of the Free German Youth but also against all "persons who pursue the same aims" as the youth organisation.

Immediately after the ban was pronounced Free German Youth leaders announced that they would continue to fight for peace and reunification, despite the prohibition, which they described as "illegal".

Since the first banning of the Free German Youth in 1951 no fewer than 11,700 young people in West Germany have been arrested by the police because of their activities for peace and against remilitarisation. Most of those arrested had to be released after terms of "investigatory detention" ranging from a few days up to over one year, but many hundreds have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

West Germany Decorates Anti-Semite

West German President Theodor Heuss has awarded the "Federal Cross for Meritorious Service" to Werner Krauss, a leading nazi actor who played the chief role in the Hitlerite anti-Semitic propaganda film "Jew Suess".

"COME TO EAST GERMANY AND SEE FOR YOURSELF"

Invitation to British Labour Party

To the
Executive Committee
of the Labour Party
LONDON

Berlin, July 15th, 1954

The executive committee of the Labour Party has published in a pamphlet its views on questions of vital interest to the German people.

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany considers it its duty to inform you of its attitude to these questions — the attitude held by the democratic and peace-loving forces among the German people.

As is well known, the German militarists bear the main responsibility for the two world wars. Only those who have forgotten the sufferings of the peoples can harbour the idea of rearming these militarists, who are dreaming of revenge and who hope, with the help of the USA and of miracle weapons, to be more successful a third time. Such an adventure would be bound to meet with failure and would cause only senseless sacrifices. The re-arming of the West German militarists would be a betrayal of the victims of both world wars.

Danger of War

All peace-loving people believe that it is possible to prevent the reestablishment of German militarism, to solve controversial international questions by way of negotiation and to strengthen peace in the whole world. The movement of the peoples against remilitarisation in West Germany is experiencing a new upsurge in Europe, because the peoples do not want their future to be darkened by the danger of a new war.

In Germany too the democratic forces are uniting in a broad front against Adenauer's war policy, carried out under cover of the European Defence Community. For this reason, the pamphlet entitled "In Defence of Europe" published by the Labour Party in support of the treaties of Bonn and Paris and of rearming the revenge-seeking militarists in West Germany, has called forth indignant protest in peaceful sections of the German people.

It is dangerous and misleading to assert, as this pamphlet does, that the West German chauvinists, who thirst for revenge, would be curbed by the EDC Treaty in their endeavours to gain control of western Europe. What the ruling circles of West Germany mean when they speak of a "European Community" was shown by Bonn Minister Seebohm who declared: "European culture is only to be found where German people live." In a book published in West Germany by SS General Hausser, the fascist SS are called "the pioneers of a free, united Europe."

The open threats uttered against France by Adenauer and other West German politicians show that they continue the policy pursued by Hitler. History has taught us how they will act once they possess arms. It is already clear today that everyone who allies himself with them runs the risk of being drawn into disastrous adventures.

The rearming of the German militarists would without doubt compel the peace-loving European states to intensify their efforts to defend themselves, and would result in an armamants race which would not contribute to the maintenance of peace.

Militarist Plot

It is impossible to ignore the fact that the ruling circles of the USA have entered into a plot with the German militarists. Their aim is unmistakable: to make West Germany the American policeman in western Europe. The German militarists and the nazis of yesterday are today already in the saddle in West Germany, so much so that even such a conservative politician as the former Prime Minister of Baden-Wuertemberg, Reinhold Maier, found himself compelled to state "that important sections of the West German government are already hovering on the borderline between democracy and semi-authoritarianism."

The statement made in the pamphlet that there is a guarantee that the armed forces would be democratically controlled does not conform with the facts.

It is just as misleading to maintain that the German people support the plans of the aggressive politicians in Bonn.

During the Referendum held recently in the German Democratic Republic the overwhelming majority of citizens expressed their opposition to the EDC Treaty and supported a peace treaty. A free vote of the West German population on the question of "Peace Treaty or EDC Treaty" would produce the same results.

The loss of one million votes for Adenauer's party during the recent provincial elections in North Rhine-Westphalia proves that opposition to the policy of the Bonn government is continually growing. The Socialist members of the Labour Party cannot wish to support the West German monopolists and their politicians, rather than the German people.

With regard to the figures published in the pamphlet on the alleged strength and military equipment of the German People's Police, it appears that the authors have fallen victim to deliberately falsified information. It is unfortunate that the pamphlet ignores the statement made by the Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic on February 13th 1954, that a comparison of the strength of the police forces in both parts of Germany showed that West Germany had one member of a police formation to every 115 persons, whereas the German Democratic Republic had one member of the People's Police to every 280 persons.

Readers of the pamphlet are also not informed of repeated proposals of the government of the German Democratic Republic to the Bonn authorities to negotiate on the strength, stationing and equipment of the police forces in East and West Germany.

East Ignored

It is revealing that there is no reference to the efforts of the government of the German Democratic Republic to bring the two parts of Germany together, nor to the proposals for free, all-German elections as the suitable way to peaceful reunification of Germany.

It is clear that since the German Democratic Republic was granted full sovereignty the removal of American control in West Germany becomes ever more urgent. The authors of the pamphlet, who cannot evade this question, maintain that in view of the coupling of the Bonn Treaty with the Paris EDC Treaty, the development of the West German Federal Republic "to full self-determination would be dependent on the ratification of the EDC Treaty."

The authors of the pamphlet stress that it is essential to avoid a repetition of the mistakes of the Versailles Peace Treaty, but they advocate a policy which is bound to lead to consequences even more dangerous than those of the Versailles Treaty. The Versailles Peace Treaty never envisaged the division of Germany nor its integration into an aggressive military alliance, and certainly not a fifty-year occupation of Germany by foreign troops.

It is astonishing that the pamphlet evades the question of reunifying Germany and making her a democratic, peaceloving and independent state, but by calling for one-sided military, economic and political ties of West Germany with the countries of the Atlantic Pact, gives its consent to a further partitioning of Germany.

However, a divided Germany within the heart of Europe represents a source of constant tension, and the integration of West Germany into the aggressive military alliance of the EDC is a direct threat to peace.

The assertion contained in the pamphlet that acceptance of the proposals made by the British Foreign Minister at the Berlin Conference of Foreign Ministers would have meant the recognition of the freedom of decision of a future all-German government with regard to EDC is contradicted by Section IV of the proposal. This section lays down that the decisions of the all-German national assembly and of the government could be rejected by a majority decision of the Four Powers.

Security Threat?

Attention must be drawn to the declaration made by Great Britain and the USA to consider every attempt by a member state of the EDC to detach itself from this treaty as a threat against their own security. In this case, the Western Powers usurp for themselves the right to declare martial law in West Germany in accordance with Paragraph 6 of the Bonn Treaty. It is obvious that one cannot under such conditions speak of freedom of decision of a future all-German government.

The obvious conclusion is that the authors of the pamphlet do not wish to see a peace-loving, sovereign German state. It would be a fallacy to believe that the German people will for any length of time be content with non-recognition of its sovereignty and the division of its homeland.

At its Fourth Party Congress, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany laid down once again, in its document entitled "The Road to the Solution of the Vital Questions of the German Nation," the democratic principles underlying the policy of the German Democratic Republic and stressed that the fight for peace and for friendly relations with all nations forms the basis of this policy.

"Come and See"

In the interests of the German people and of peace in Europe, the German Democratic Republic will continue to fight consistently against the remilitarisation of West Germany and will also in future pursue a policy of achieving understanding amongst the Germans themselves.

We are of the opinion that this is also the best way to protect the interests of the British people.

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany proposes that the Labour Party send a delegation to visit the German Democratic Republic, so that representatives of the British Labour Party can have an opportunity to convince themselves on the spot of the peaceful intentions and of the democratic development of the German Democratic Republic.

With socialist greetings,

Central Committee

Socialist Unity Party of Germany

"LET US BURY THE HATCHET"

Grotewohl Appeals to West German Socialists

Otto Grotewohl, Socialist veteran who is now Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic and one of the leaders of the East German Socialist Unity Party has appealed to West German Social Democrats to bury the hatchet and combine to fight the menace of German militarism.

In the 1920's Otto Grotewohl was Social Democratic Minister of Education in Brunswick Provincial Government, and for many years a Social Democratic member of the Reichstag.

During the Hitler period he fought in the underground, and after the end of the war he played a leading part in bringing about the union of the Communist and Social Democratic Parties in East Germany.

Otto Grotewohl addressed his important open letter to West German Social Democratic Chairman Erich Ollenhauer on the eve of the Party Congress of the Social Democratic Party, held in Berlin in the third week in July.

Here, slightly condensed for reasons of space, is the text of the letter:

Dear Comrade Ollenhauer,

In 1945 we sat together for a whole night in a village near Hanover and discussed Germany's future and the role of the German working class. The discussion led to no results, for our opinions differed very widely. In nearly all points under discussion you held firmly to the principles of Weimar (the German Weimar Republic, 1918—1933, ed.) and believed that a democracy on the Weimar pattern, with the help of the occupation forces, could prevent for all time a return to power of the fascist forces in Germany.

We, on the other hand, drew from the horrors of the Hitler era the lesson that the two workers' parties in Germany (Social Democrats and Communists, ed.) must bury the hatchet for ever, and call on the resources of the invincible united working class in order to overcome the dark forces of the past, and to ensure a happy future for our people.

We parted, unsuccessful, just as in later encounters; but the intervening nine years of German history have given us the answers to our discussion. We must learn these lessons if we are not to be guilty of a new failure of the German working class.

Your Party Congress, Comrade Ollenhauer, gives me the opportunity to present to you and to the delegates some thoughts and considerations arising from the great responsibility which the German working class has towards our nation.

Without overlooking the basic differences of opinion between us, I believe that events make necessary the united action of the German working class in a far-reaching political initiative. Today there exists no reason to reject united action of the working class throughout Germany.

Our nation is menaced by a new war. The militarists and the politicians of revenge in West Germany are raising their heads arrogantly once again. West Germany is controlled by an antidemocratic regime, The Adenauer group is the most bitter enemy of an understanding between Germans in East and West.

As the result of the Adenauer policy, West Germany has developed into a clerical police state, which oppresses all supporters of peace and democracy, including also Social Democrats and trade unionists.

Some sections of your party support the opinion that the remilitarisation of West Germany can "be carried out in a democratic framework". This is a criminal illusion, for which the working class would have to suffer again as it suffered in 1933 (when Hitler came to power, ed.).

The working class, if it acts as a united force, is powerful enough to prevent a new and frightful catastrophe, and to liberate our nation from its difficult position. The workers of West und East Germany are brothers, and have the joint task of achieving peace for our nation and establishing a sovereign united Germany in peace and liberty. By doing this the working class would win the trust and the support of all peaceable and progressive Germans, and win it its rightful position in the whole of state and economic life.

The Bonn Treaty and the European Defence Community Treaty, which are the objects of such bitter conflicts throughout Europe today, would impose upon Germany for an indefinite period a fateful state of non-peace.

These two treaties prevent the reunification of Germany, make the conclusion of a peace treaty impossible, destroy the hopes of German self-determination, wreck the relationships of the Germans one with another, and lead Germany into a new enmity with France and with Russia.

From a study of more than one hundred resolutions which have been submitted to your Party Congress I see that many Social Democratic colleagues agree with me in their estimate of the situation.

It is clear that the common interests of the German workers cannot be cancelled by an illegal partitioning of Germany. The common interests of the German workers arise from their common demand for democracy, peace, liberty, unity and social progress. These goals can only be attained in Germany when the working class ends the influence of the monopolists, junkers and militarists on the government and on economic life, and when the working class itself exerts the decisive influence.

The German working class has the power to bring about such a change for the better. The existence of the German Democratic Republic has assured the working class of the whole of Germany of a strong

foundation for its just fight. In this part of Germany the establishment of workers' unity and the alliance of the workers with all democratic forces has led to the establishment of the first really peaceful, democratic and sovereign German state, in which the fateful grip of German militarism and imperialism has been broken for all time; a state which devotes every effort to securing peace and to achieving the peaceful reunification of Germany on a democratic basis.

Naturally neither the American billionaires nor the West German monopolists are pleased with a democracy in which the working people have the decisive word. It is clear that our policy is successful, and that the German Democratic Republic is a strongpoint of peace, liberty and progress.

I know that you think differently. But why do you hinder Social Democratic comrades from convincing themselves personally of the real conditions in the German Democratic Republic? In the name of that liberty of which you talk so much you should allow them this freedom, instead of expelling them from your party.

In the area of the German Democratic Republic unity of action was established in 1945 and later (in 1946, ed.) the two workers' parties combined; as a result the working class has become the leading force, and has destroyed for all time the basis of militarism and imperialism. There is no area of social life in the German Democratic Republic in which the working class does not exert decisive influence.

You (in West Germany, ed.) had the same chances as we had. You have not used those chances, because you neglected to learn the lessons taught by the Weimar period and the fascist era. That is why your policy has produced no successes for the workers. That is why the same destructive forces of monopoly, militarism and revenge are in the saddle in West Germany again, forces which are the sworn enemies of the workkers' movement, and which are step by step removing all traces of its influence upon state and economic life — also the influence exerted by the Social Democratic Party and the trade unions.

Anyone who adopts the attitude of a 'loyal opposition' to forces such as these becomes the prisoner of their policies. It is clear that there must be no delay in drawing the necessary lessons and consequences from the experiences of the past few years.

I believe that a successful German working class policy must be based upon resistance to... every form of revival of German militarism and of the Wehrmacht.

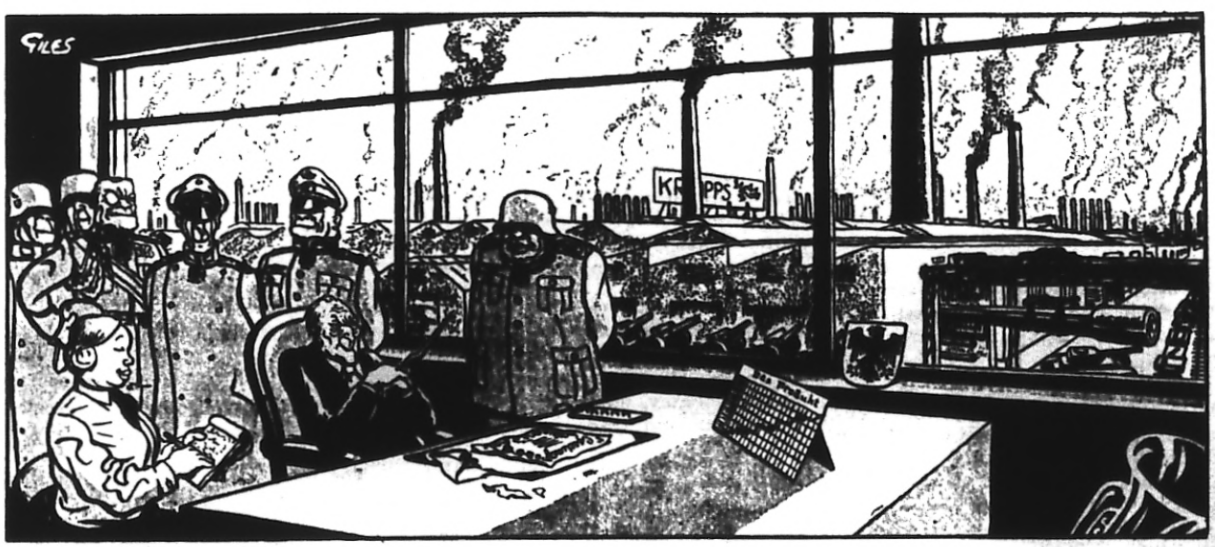
It is not enough to oppose the EDC treaties in Parliament and at the same time to speak of the necessity for 'defending the free world'. After all, this 'free world' is the world of the monopolists and warmakers, of the bitterest enemies of the working class from McCarthy to Adenauer and Franco.

In my capacity as Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic I can assure you that my government is using and will continue to use its sovereignty to achieve the peaceful reunification of Germany, and to use to the full every opportunity for negotiations and understanding.

The Adenauer Government has accepted the Treaties of Bonn and Paris, and thus made the holding of all-German free elections impossible; but we are ready to work together with the representatives of the Social Democratic Party and the other democratic parties and organisations in order to work out an electoral law which would lay down the conditions for the holding of really free democratic elections to a German National Assembly.

I hope sincerely that you and the delegates to your Party Congress will consider the situation very seriously. The key action for a turn to the better for the working class and for the rightful aims of our people must be the establishment of unity of action of the working class throughout Germany. This is the goal for which I am working, since I am deeply convinced that united action by the German working class will lead to the cancellation of the Treaties of Bonn and Paris and open the path to peace and the democratic reunification of Germany.

. . . And Adenauer Writes a Letter



"We are prepared to accept your German rearmament programme on condition we sell you the arms that you rearm us with..."
(Daily Express, London)

You Ask – We Answer:

SCHOOLS AND YOUTH CLUBS

"Could you give me information on the high schools in the German Democratic Republic, the general school day and what is taught?... What is the Free German Youth?... What kind of clubs for students are there in schools etc.?"

B. T., Toronto, Canada

Here is a typical weekly time-table for a sixteen-year-old in his second year of high school:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8.00— 8.45	Physics	Russian	Sport	German	Geography	Religion*
8.50— 9.35	Maths.	Drawing	Sport	German	Biology	Maths.
10.00—10.45	German	Maths.	Maths.	Maths.	Physics	Chemistry
10.50—11.35	German	Russian	Physics	Biology	Current Events	FDJ-Meeting*
11.55—12.40	Music	History	German	Geography	History	
12.45— 1.30	Russian	History	Singing	Russian	Chemistry	

*Religion and Free German Youth group meetings are optional.

Some students also learn English or French on two afternoons in the week

* * *

The Free German Youth (FDJ) is a youth organisation which all young people between the ages of 16 and 25 can join, regardless of their political or religious views or the type of work or study they are engaged in. Many members of the "Junge Gemeinde", a Protestant church youth group, are also in the FDJ.

FDJ groups are run in connection with schools, universities and places of work. The regular uniform, a sort of scout uniform, is a plain blue shirt and trousers (skirt for girls) and a khaki bush jacket. In summer the boys wear a lighter blue shirt and shorts and the girls a light blue blouse and white skirt.

The FDJ occupies a very important place in the life of the German Democratic Republic; its aims and objects were worked out by the organisation itself, which also had a decisive voice in the working out of the Youth Law of the Republic. All officials are democratically elected and like other social organisations, the FDJ has its own elected representatives in the People's Chamber. It also has its own daily newspaper, "Junge Welt" (Young World), which devotes a lot of space to sports and youth activities.

The FDJ groups in schools, universities and factories and on the land organise all sorts of sports training and meets, folk singing and dancing and orchestral groups, amateur theatricals, handicrafts, general knowledge study circles and so on. Proficiency badges are awarded in three grades, bronze, silver and gold.

There are at present fifty-three big youth clubs in the German Democratic Republic; these clubs contain assembly halls with stage for theatrical, cinema and concert performances, reading-rooms and library, table tennis rooms, chess and music rooms and photographic dark rooms.

There are also 8,819 smaller youth clubs and a large number of sport clubs with changing rooms, shower baths etc. Besides these, all big factories have their own youth clubs which are run by the trade union committees.

Membership of all clubs is free and open to all young people without exception. Membership in the FDJ is not necessary in order to enjoy the club facilities.

Schools, apprentice combines in factories and young farm workers in agricultural production cooperatives and machine and tractor stations, training schools and universities, also have their study groups, in which young people can pursue their special hobbies helped by older students, teachers or qualified workers.

There are 706 youth hostels scattered all over the German Democratic Republic, which are open to all young people on holiday at very low cost, as the main expense is born by the government. Children, students and apprentices pay 25 pfennigs a night (the cost of mailing a letter) and other hikers 50 pfennigs.

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

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Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167 III, Berlin W 8, Germany.

"Protocols of Zion" in West Germany

Anti-Semitic literature, including the classic anti-semitic forgery, "Protocols of the Elders of Zion", is on open sale again in West Germany.

A book agent named Karl-Heinz Heubaum runs a postal book service under the name "Widerhall Buchversanddienst" from an address in Lochham near Munich, American Zone. The book list offers among much other neo-nazi literature:

"Protocols of the Elders of Zion" 4 marks.

"I Acquit Hitler" by Edmund Herbert, 1.50 marks.

It is specifically stated in the list that the Protocols are "not a forgery.".

Big Post for Nazi Police Chief

Nazi war criminal Werner Best, sentenced to death by a Danish court for murdering Danish patriots but later released, has been appointed chief of the Northern Department of the West German Intelligence Service, the West German "Parliamentary Political Press Service" reported.

SABOTEURS TRY TO EXPLOIT FLOODS

Saboteurs believed to be in the pay of an American Secret Service organisation attempted to increase the damage done by the large-scale floods which hit parts of the German Democratic Republic during the third week of July, East German authorities announced.

At the height of the flooding on July 15th, bogus telephone calls allegedly coming from government offices, were received by the dam-keepers at the big dams at Sosa, Kriebstein and Seidenbach, ordering them to open the sluice-gates immediately.

Special security measures had already been taken to prevent such sabotage, however, and the sluice-gates were not opened.

On the next day, July 16th, the "Neue Zeitung", official US organ in West Berlin, reported triumphantly that the sluice-gates at Sosa dam had been opened, and that as a result the town of Zwickau had been flooded for a second time, and a number of people killed.

*

During the course of the floods, a total of 14 persons were drowned in East Germany, and considerable damage was done to growing crops in some areas. Fine cooperation and selfsacrificing work by volunteer workers, People's Police and units of the Soviet Army prevented the loss of many lives and the flooding of even larger areas.

Food Saboteur Sentenced

The Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic has sentenced former Supply Minister Karl Hamann to ten years imprisonment, after finding him guilty of knowingly disorganising the supplies of foodstuffs and consumer goods to the East German population in 1951 and 1952. Four other leading officials of the supply organisation were sentenced to long prison terms for similar offences.

Nazi Professors Get Full Pay

Forty-two professors who were so outspokenly nazi that they have not yet been employed again, even in West Germany, are receiving their full pay and doing nothing for it, announced Herr Hennig, Minister of Culture in the West German province of Hesse. The do-nothing professors are now claiming a pay-raise from their present annual 14,000 marks (about 1,200 sterling) to 20,000 marks (about 1,700 sterling).

93% AGAINST NEW WEHRMACHT

Over 93% of the voters in East Germany gave their votes against the European Defence Community and the formation of a new West German Wehrmacht, in the plebiscite held at the end of June.

Voters were asked to put their cross against one of the two following questions:

"Are you in favour of a peace treaty and the withdrawal of the occupation troops?"

"Are you in favour of EDC, the Bonn Treaty and of occupation troops remaining for fifty years?"

In addition to the usual voters, that is to say all men and women over 18, young people between 16 and 18 were allowed to vote in this plebiscite, since they would be the persons most immediately affected by remilitarisation.

* * *

Here are the detailed results:

Persons entitled to vote:	**13,585,404**	
Votes cast:	**13,399,570**	**(98.6 %)**
Valid votes:	**13,071,156**	
Invalid votes:	**328,414**	
Votes cast for peace treaty:	**12,231,231**	**(93.6 %)**
Votes cast for EDC	**839,925**	**(6.4 %)**

NAZI TOURISTS AGAIN

By Associated Press

Bonn July 13th — Some West German tourists are acting scandalously abroad, and it's time the government did something about it, a member of (the West German) Parliament said yesterday.

"We've had reports of how German tourists are misbehaving abroad and we can no longer keep silent about it", Gustav Adolf Gedat, a Christian Democratic Deputy, told a news conference.

As examples he gave:

"Young Germans roar through French villages on motorcycles at top speed. The French have only one word for these rowdies. It's 'Boche'. These rowdies act as if they owned the villages.

"At the Copenhagen airport recently, a German business man entered a crowded passenger plane and announced loudly 'I want the best place to see out of the window'.

"In Italy, a member of the (West) German parliament was threatened with assault by a group of German tourists when he told them to behave in a public place."

*

The examples of bad behaviour quoted in the Associated Press message reprinted above might be dismissed as relatively harmless cases of boorishness, were it not for the fact that other reports in the West German press show that these incidents abroad are often deliberate nazi demonstrations.

West German tourists in Holland, for instance, recently rallied at the site of the battle of Arnhem, and solemnly sang the nazi "Horst Wessel Lied". Even more outrageous was the conduct of the former nazi military commander of the Dutch town of Hilversum, who recently rang the bell of a house in the centre of Hilversum and demanded to be allowed to show his wife through the house "Where I spent such happy days during the war".

So far no reports have come to our notice of former nazi airmen gloating over the ruins of Coventry. If any such cases should come to the attention of our readers, we should be glad to receive a report.

War Criminal's Name for Boat

A coastal vessel launched at the West German shipyards of Lippstadt at the end of June was christened "Grand Admiral Raeder". The christening was carried out by Frau Raeder.

Grand Admiral Raeder is serving a life sentence as a nazi war criminal in Spandau Prison, Berlin.

WEST GERMAN FBI CHIEF GOES EAST

Dr Otto John, head of the West German Office for the Protection of the Constitution (equivalent to the American FBI, or MI 5 in Britain) fled to East Berlin on July 20th because, as he announced, remilitarisation and renazification in West Germany were inevitably leading to a new world war.

While West German and American authorities were announcing that John had been kidnapped, hypnotised, drugged, and that he had committed suicide, he went to the microphone in East Berlin on July 23rd, and made the following announcement:

"Germany is in danger of being permanently partitioned in the dispute between the East and the West. A demonstrative action was needed to rally all Germans to work for reunification. That is why, on the anniversary of July 20th (the date of the bomb-plot against Hitler in 1944, ed.). I have taken a determined step and established contact with the Germans in the East.

"In the Federal Republic the basis for political action on my part has been removed. In my office I have been pilloried by the nazis who are active again everywhere in public life . . .

"In recent discussions clever men of political experience have confirmed their conviction that German politics have reached a dead end. On the other hand the Church Rally at Leipzig (at which leading figures from East and West came together, ed.) has shown that there are still possibilities for reunification, and that these must be at least explored."

On July 28th, Dr John made another short radio statement, in which he said:

"The one sided policy of Dr. Adenauer, attached only to American policy, together with the remilitarisation and renazification, will inevitably lead to a new war, which will bring our people not only unimaginable new sufferings but which will make questionable the very existence of our people as a nation.

"I say this with a full sense of responsibility on the basis of my own experience and on the basis of my knowledge of the decisive facts, facts which are also known to the leading figures in Bonn with whom I worked.

"It is no longer sufficient to pronounce warnings: the time has come to act, and this is why I appealed last Friday for action in aid of reunification."

* * *

Comment

"There does not seem to be any doubt that Dr John took an increasingly serious view of the reappearance of former nazis in positions of power. . . The former intelligence chief felt that the current trend in West German public life was a movement away from democracy.

"Dr John's 'state of mind' was undoubtedly affected by his knowledge that a struggle was going on in some government departments between former Nazis and the anti-Hitlerite Germans who had actively opposed and fought the Third Reich."

New York Times, July 26th 1954

"Otto John was at the end of his tether. A man who had taken part in the prosecution of (Field Marshal) Manstein, and who even today hates without exception all former nazis, could not expect to play a leading role in the Federal Republic today."

Spiegel Newsmagazine, Hamburg, West Germany, July 28th 1954

". . . there were powerful personal motives for Dr John to turn his back on Western Germany, where it is once more contemptible and dangerous to be anti-Nazi . . .

"Dr Otto John represents a growing number of passionate — yet coolly calculating — patriots who fear that Western policy, instead of leading to reunification, can only drag the German people into a pernicious civil war of ideologies. They fear that at the best Germany would become the battlefield over which East and West will fight the next war."

Reynold's News, July 25the 1954.

"Our Patience is Exhausted" - Adenauer

West Germany will soon form a new Wehrmacht whether France likes it or not, West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer announced in a brutally frank broadcast on July 2nd.

Here are the relevant passages from his speech:

"The Federal Republic does not intend to suffer any longer from the fact that other countries are behindhand in ratifying the (Bonn and Paris) treaties.

"Let us assume for a moment the unlikely circumstance that France refuses to ratify the European Defence Community Treaty. Then we shall refuse under all circumstances every attempt to rearm us under unworthy conditions — every attempt to saddle us with a German army which is under any sort of control. I wish to emphasise this once and for all.

"There will be nothing to do except to form a German national army."

In the remainder of his speech Chancellor Adenauer accused France of bad faith in signing the Bonn and Paris treaties in 1952, but not yet ratifying them.

On July 8th, East German Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl declared in this connection:

"The provocative threats which Adenauer addressed to France in order to force the ratification of the EDC have led to unrest all over the world, and particularly in France. People have begun to say that Germany has learned nothing from the past.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic hereby states that Adenauer is not entitled to speak in the name of the German people. Adenauer is trying to continue the old policies of German imperialism, but the democratic forces of our people are countering him and devoting their efforts to attain a peaceful and friendly relationship with all European peoples."

US Training For Luftwaffe

"Washington, Friday — The US has a plan to train German pilots just as soon as the rearmament scheme gets under way. The Defence Department already has special funds ready for this.

A statement by General George Stewart, the Defence Department's foreign military aid director, was issued today, and he says the money will be used 'almost exclusively by the air force to start training instructor pilots at the earliest possible moment it is legally possible to do so'."

Daily Express,
London, July 24th 1954.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

The London "Daily Express", for reasons of its own, is running a campaign against German rearmament: some of the "exposure" stories which it has recently run from West Germany have served a useful purpose by bringing the facts of renazification and remilitarisation to a wide audience.

But I should like to take this opportunity of warning readers in England that "Daily Express" reports from Berlin are reaching a new low in stupid unreliability.

Donald Duck Cup

In fact I think that I shall have to award the GERMAN REPORT "Donald Duck Cup for the Most Unreliable Correspondent in West Berlin" to Mr Colin Lawson, the Daily Express regular correspondent.

Here is a recent specimen. On June 17th he wrote: "During the Big Four Conference East Berlin became a shop window. Thousands of visitors, British Foreign Office officials among them, swarmed over to buy cheap typewriters, glassware, rugs and china. When the conference ended, down came the clamp again. Foreigners are now forbidden to 'ruin' the State economy by buying goods. Shops are almost bare."

The first part of the story is more or less true, though it needs a little explanation. Owing to the curious position of Berlin, with completely different currencies circulating in its eastern and western halves, with all the opportunities for smuggling which this involves, only legal residents of East Berlin and East Germany are allowed to make purchases in the shops there. Foreigners with visas for the German Democratic Republic fall into this category.

Hair Cut Allowed

West Berliners, and foreign visitors to West Berlin are not allowed to buy most things in East Berlin shops, though they may take meals in a restaurant, or get their hair cut. During the Big Four Conference early this year this regulation was suspended with respect to foreign visitors.

But it is Mr Lawson's last sentence with which I wish to differ — "Shops are almost bare".

There are of course still various shortages in East Germany and East Berlin, GERMAN REPORT has often commented on them. But the shops are full.

It so happens that less than a week before he wrote the article quoted, Mr Colin Lawson, an individual with a scraggy red moustache which he apparently hopes makes him look like "an officer and a gentleman", visited me in my office in East Berlin.

In order to get to my office he must have passed at least some shop windows, and a glance through the shop doors would have shown him that the shops were just as well stocked as the windows. What would he have seen in those windows?

The two shops on the ground floor of the building where my office is situated sell women's clothes and glassware. One window at the time of his visit was filled with light summer dresses, a few scarves, pullovers and bathing dresses. The other window was, if anything, rather overfilled with tea-sets, vases, cut-glass and some china cupids which I consider rather ugly.

Ruined Area

My office is in a rather ruined area of central Berlin, so there are not very many shops in the immediate vicinity, but only fifty yards away there is an office equipment shop offering six different types of portable typewriter, including extra-thin models.

Within two hundred yards of my office I can buy (if I have the money of course), a new car, motorboat or canoe (no waiting list for most models); as many rugs as I like, both reasonable German-made carpets and luxurious imports from the Balkans and China; almost any sort of camera or optical equipment; pots, pans and household equipment.

So much for Mr Lawson's "bare shops". In the same article he mentioned the workers' defence groups, which have been raised in East German factories as a protection against such fascist risings as that attempted on June 17th 1953. This is what Mr. Lawson has to say about them:

"The nucleus came from Nazis, SS and SA troops, well-trained by Hitler and Himmler."

Now I happen to know quite a number of people who are members of these defence groups, and in every case of which I have personal knowledge the groups are led by veteran anti-fascists, men who fought in the International Brigade in Spain and who suffered in the concentration camps.

And if Mr Lawson thinks that men with that sort of background are today standing shoulder to shoulder with SS men, then he does not know any real anti-Hitler veterans.

A charge of this gravity should be supported by facts. Names please, Mr Lawson.

Lawson's "Ban"

Mr. Lawson gave another example of his supreme indifference to facts on July 5th, the day after the West German soccer team won the World Cup Final at Berne. Mr. Lawson reported:

"In East Berlin the game was officially ignored. Bars were not allowed to tune their radios to it."

Interesting story, if true. As a matter of fact, the East German radio transmitted a running commentary on the whole match from the first whistle, and there were big clusters round radios everywhere. And to find out how untrue his story was Mr Lawson would not even have to make the tiring ten-minute trip to East Berlin: a simple twist of his radio dial would have told him.

In accordance with our usual practice I shall be glad to give Mr Lawson the hospitality of our columns for any factual reply he might like to make.

Exchange Rate

Here is a useful note to remember the next time anyone comes up with the old story about "One West mark in Berlin is worth as much as four or five East marks". On July 10th the Manchester Guardian reported from Berlin:

"Taking the East mark at par with its Western counterpart, which is roughly what it is to East Berlin workers . . .".

Can They Count?

On another page of this issue we print the official East German answer to various allegations about the People's Police in East Germany made in a British White Book. I should like to take the opportunity of suggesting that on future occasions the British and US authorities should get together and cook their statistics jointly instead of coming

up with completely different figures, not only on the People's Police in East Germany, where both of them are admittedly guessing, but even on police strength in West Germany, where they might be expected to know.

This is what I mean. The British White Book, published on July 13th, stated that "militarised" police forces in East Germany total "between 80,000 and 90,000 men": US Foreign Minister John Foster Dulles, speaking at the Berlin Conference on February 17th 1954 stated: "East German military personnel now total 140,200 men under arms". A little difference of 50,000.

The British White Book states that in West Germany there are "rather more than 10,000" Federal Frontier Police, "about 10,000" provincial mobile police, and "about 90,000" ordinary police, making a total of something over 110,000: Dulles in his February 17th speech in Berlin said: "There is in West Germany a total of 150,000". Here the little difference is something under 40,000.

As a footnote to these interesting statistics, it may be recalled that nearly six years ago — on October 21st 1948 — US Military Governor General Lucius Clay told a press conference in Berlin that an "East German militarised police force numbering 300,000 is being built up". Six days later, on October 27th 1948, British Military Governor General Sir Brian Robertson reduced the number to 200,000.

You pay your money, and you take your choice.

Mr Short

A reader in Australia has sent me a cutting from the "Labor News", organ of the Federated Ironworkers' Association of Australia with a page of photographs showing union secretary Laurie Short in East Berlin. The photographs are accompanied by the usual rather silly captions about "tough-looking red cops" who "snarl" when they see the word "Australia" on Mr Short's passport.

Mr Short incidentally states that he made his tour of East Berlin in the car of an American diplomat: possibly rather strange company for an Australian trade union official.

But I happen to know from personal experience that during his visit to Europe Mr Short was not anxious to find out what was really going on in East Germany. It happened like this.

During April I was in Geneva, covering the opening stages of the Far Eastern conference, and one evening an American acquaintance called me over to the bar in the Press Centre, and casually introduced me to several of his friends.

One of them, a short stocky man with a bright yellow waistcoat and a beery face started to stick his hand out, and then said "What was the name again?".

"John Peet" said I.

"I don't want to meet you" said the beery character, who immediately turned on his heel and ran — not walked but ran — away from the bar.

"Who was that queer bird" I asked.

"That was Laurie Short" my American acquaintance said. "Down under, they call him the Australian McCarthy, I believe."

Blood

A visitor from West Germany has just shown me the menu card of the Florida milk bar, in Dusseldorf, one of the main towns in the British Zone of West Germany. I glanced down the list of things offered: Banana Split, Ice Cream Sundae and Tomato Juice a la Mexico.

But I was brought up short by the speciality offered in double size type at the bottom of the card:

MAU MAU BLOOD, 2 Marks — Original American Recipe.

So West German fascist shopkepers commercialise the misdeeds of British fascist settlers and officers in Kenya in suppressing the liberation forces of the African people.

Nazi Grab

After the nazis annexed Austria in 1938 they started to build a super-motor-highway from Salzburg to Vienna. Work on the uncompleted highway was suspended by the outbreak of war.

In July this year, the Austrians started to complete the highway. Vienna lawyer Dr Draxler, representing the West German Government, immediately presented the Austrian Government with a legal document, calling for this work to cease. The document claimed that the West German Government was the legal successor of Hitler's Reich Government, and that the land over which the highway runs, the half-completed bridges, and the building plans, were thus all the property of the West German Government.

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We suggest that the West German Government should now proceed to claim the gas-chambers and crematoriums at Auschwitz Concentration Camp, situated in Poland, which were undoubtedly constructed by the German Reich.

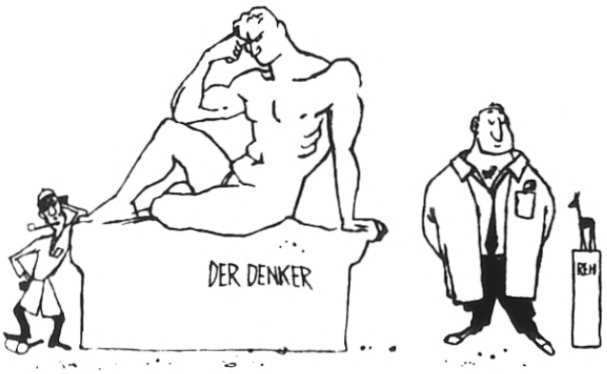
(During July, British Princess Margaret visited West Germany)

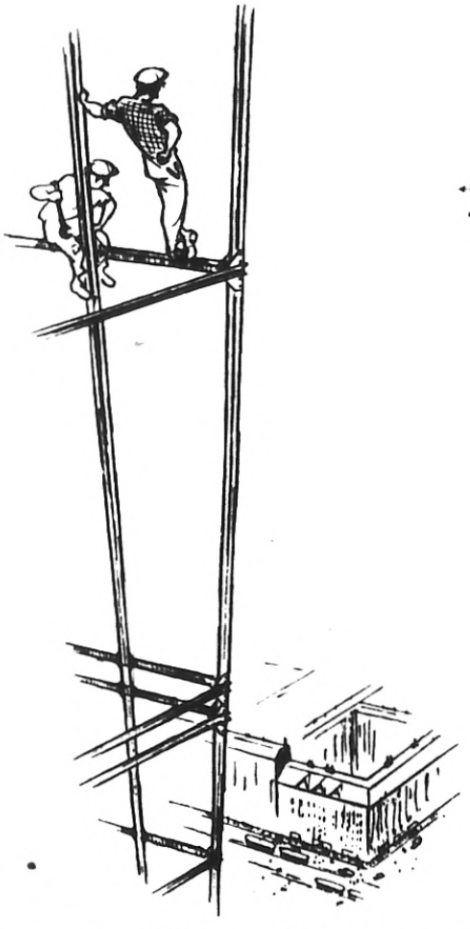
Adenauer: "And when can I send my little ones on a return visit, your Royal Highness?"

("Deutsche Woche", Munich)

BERLIN LAUGHS

Jokes from "Eulenspiegel", East Berlin





"Take a look at that pair of legs!"

"Two ounces of sliced sausage please. A little bit of everything"

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